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ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1967

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH OF ASHFORD

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1967

Medical Officer of Health

MARSHALL, J.,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

HAMMOND, S.F.

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

PRATT, S.,

M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

COULING, S.W.

M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

BLACKWELL, A.

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief  
Public Health Inspector for the Year  
1967

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1967.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 34,070 an increase of 1,740 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 717 (379 M. 338 F.) which was an increase of 67 over that of the previous year. The crude birth-rate was accordingly 21.0 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor computed from a Population standardised for age and sex distribution, becomes 20.4, compared with that of 17.2 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 17 (4 M. 13 F.) and the corresponding rate was 23.0 in comparison with that of 14.8 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Fifteen infant deaths were registered nine of which were under four weeks of age, and the corresponding infantile mortality rate was 21.0 compared with that of 18.3 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

Prematurity - 13 hours

Atalectasis: Prematurity: Breech Delivery - 12 hours

Asphyxia: Multiple congenital deformities - 1 minute

Fulminating Gastro-Enteritis - 6 months

Intercranial Haemorrhage due to Birth Injury - 4 hours

Prematurity - 6 hours

Acute Bronchopneumonia due to Staphylococcus Aureus - 2 months

Congenital Morbus Cordis (Patent Ventricular septum) - 4 days

Prematurity; Acute Hydramnios - 3 hours

Asphyxia: Cord tightly round neck - 1 hour

Lobar Pneumonia - 1 month

Bronchopneumonia: Congenital Heart defect: Mongolism - 8 months

Bronchopneumonia - 7 weeks

Asphyxia: Hydrocephalus - 1 hour

Bronchitis: Cerebral Contusion: Fractured skull: }

Front seat passenger in a car which collided with a tree } - 4 weeks

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations, and the chief maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

#### Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 301 (164 M. 137 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 8.83 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, becomes 9.0, compared with that of 11.2 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, which are natural ultimate causes of death amongst the aged and of these there were 172.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 78 (52 M. 26 F.) in the following age-groups; 5 between 45 - 54; 20 between 55 - 64; 24 between 65 - 74; 29 over 75 years. Fifty-three of those deaths were over 65 years, including 29 over 75 years and it would seem that a degenerative process is one of the causative factors, although the cause is still obscure and many deaths occur in middle-age.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths of which there were 52 in the following age-groups; 1 between 1 - 4 years; 1 between 15 - 24; 2 between 25 - 34; 2 between 35 - 44; 4 between 45 - 54; 11 between 55 - 64; 20 between 65 - 74 and 11 over 75 years. The majority of the deaths were over 65 years. It is reasonable to assume that many patients seek medical examination too late for treatment which is curative in most cases if the disease is not too advanced.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus caused 17 deaths (13 M. 4 F.) in the in the following age-groups:- 1 between 45 - 54; 9 between 55 - 64; 10 between 65 - 74 and 7 over 75 years. Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus occurs in earlier age-groups than Cancer of other sites excluding Cancer of the breast, and it may be assumed that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a precipitating factor in those who are predisposed to the disease.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of six deaths in the following age-groups: 2 between 35 - 44; 2 between 55 - 64; and 2 over 75 years. Four of those deaths were in early life, and it is reasonable to assume that medical advice was sought too late, as Cancer in this site is comparatively easy to diagnose.

Cancer of the Uterus was the cause of one death in the age-group 45 - 54.

Cancer of the stomach caused 7 (4 M. 3 F.) deaths; 1 between 55 - 64; 5 between 65 - 74 and 1 over 75 years.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

#### The Infectious Diseases

##### Measles

Five hundred and ten cases were notified in comparison with 282 in the previous year.

This infection per se is not serious these days and its formerly serious complications are becoming less frequent and when they do occur are treated successfully by specific Antibiotics, excepting Acute Encephalitis which is very rare.

It is equivocal whether this infection should now be statutorily notifiable, as even in non-epidemic periods Practitioners are otherwise fully engaged; also unnecessary time is taken up by Office Staffs in the registration of these notifications and in the unnecessary disbursement of fees.

Whooping Cough

Nine cases were notified. In former years outbreaks of this distressful children's disease were common and there was a large number of deaths chiefly due to Bronch-pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever

Twenty-two cases were notified. This illness is now mild and its formerly serious complications are becoming infrequent; if any does occur, treatment by a specific anti-biotic is invariably successful.

Food Poisoning

Only one case was notified, which is a tribute to the work of the Public Health Inspectors. The causal organism was not identified.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Five cases of this illness were notified. Including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there were 11 deaths in the following age-groups; 4 under 1 year; 2 between 65 and 74 years and 5 over 75 years. Pneumonia is a common terminal cause of death amongst the aged.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified - one between 45 and 54 years and the other between 55 and 64 years. No new non-Pulmonary cases were notified.

There were no deaths due to Tuberculosis - modern treatment is very successful.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the Department and also the Staff for their very efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,  
14, Church Road,  
Ashfor<sup>a</sup>, Kent.

Telephone No. Ashford 24411

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1967

AREA: 5,719 acres

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF

The Resident Population	...	...	...	34,070
<u>NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING</u> <u>TO THE RATE BOOKS</u>	...	...	...	11,291
<u>NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES</u>	...	...	...	1,220
<u>RATEABLE VALUE (1-4-68)</u>	...	...	...	£1,381,620
<u>SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (1.4.68)</u>	...	...	...	£5,650

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is both an agricultural and an industrial town and a business and shopping centre for the large rural community which surrounds it. It merits importance by containing the largest agricultural market in Kent and in having a railway junction where five lines converge, associated with which is a Carriage and Wagon Works, and Electrical Carriage Repair and Inspection Shops. There are a constantly increasing number of Factories, including Tyre Works, Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural and Vehicle Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Light Engineering and Electrical Engineering, Ordnance Depot, Bread, Cereal Products and Jam Factory, Starch/Glucose conversion factory, a large Food Processing and Dried Foods Factory, a Cosmetic Manufacturer, a Perfumery, Glass Scientific Instrument Firm, Wood Worker and Furniture Makers, Plastics Manufacturer, Plating and Rubber moulding firms.

Light industry (mainly medium and small firms) is coming to the district in concert with the absorption into the town of London 'overspill'. Unemployment in the area is relatively low.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Ashford U. n District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1.	<u>Live Births</u>	717	379	338	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	21.0) (Adjusted Rate 20.4
	(a) Legitimate	678	360	318		
	(b) Illegitimate	39	19	20		
2.	<u>Stillbirths</u>	17	4	13	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	23.0.
	(a) Legitimate	12	2	10		14.8
	(b) Illegitimate	5	2	3		
3.	<u>Total live and still-births</u>	734	383	351		
4.	<u>Deaths</u>	301	164	137	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	8.8. (Adjusted Rate 9.0)
5.	<u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil
						.Not available
6.	<u>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</u>	15	8	7	Rate per 1,000 live births	21.0 : 18.3
	(a) Legitimate	14	7	7	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	20.65
	(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	25.64
7.	<u>Perinatal Mortality</u> (Stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week of age)	26	10	16	Rate per 1,000 total births	35.0
						25.4
8.	<u>Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births</u>					5.44%
9.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...	...		52
	Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	...		-
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...		-
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)		...	...		3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1967

	ALL CAUSES			Males	Females
		164	137		
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	13
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	12
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	52
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	25
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	...	...	...	-

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<u>DISEASES</u>	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10- 14	15- 19	20- 34	35- 44	45- 44	65 and over	Unknown
Acute Primary or Influenza Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-
Measles	14	63	91	118	88	193	27	4	2	-	-	-	10
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	2	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	2	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1967

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Acute Primary or Influenza Pneumonia	5	-	-
Measles	510	-	-
Scarlet Fever	22	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1967

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	•	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	18
1	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102	28
5	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924  
and Public Health Act, 1936, (Section 172)

No action was necessary during the year in accordance with the above powers.

There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the Poliomyelitis and Diphtheris immunisation figures for 1967 based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Primary</u>			<u>Reinforcing</u>		
	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph/Tet.</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph/Tet</u>
1967	119	342	39	-	-	-
1966	483	.	16	-	1	3
1965	63	24	2	-	156	201
1964	19	2	2	-	46	44
1963	12	2	2	5	7	11
1960 - 1962	11	-	2	425	110	302
1951 - 1959	3	-	5	10	-	-
Total	710	684	68	440	320	561

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

<u>PRIMARY VACCINATION</u>	<u>RE-VACCINATION</u>
<u>1 YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS</u>
388	11

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE DISTRICT

1. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health and is situated in Preston Hall British Legion Village, Maidstone, and provides valuable services on behalf of the Public Health Departments of District Councils. For example, samples of water, milk, ice cream and other food-stuffs are regularly examined, and in relation to Infectious Diseases their bacteriological reports are of great value.

The local General Hospitals also have their own Laboratories, which provide valuable services to other local Hospitals, to the Consultants and to the Practitioners.

2. Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

The County Council administers this service throughout Kent. The Ambulance Station is situated at Silverhill Road, Willesborough, where five ambulances and five sitting-case cars are garaged. The ambulance personnel numbers one Station Officer and one Assistant Station Officer. The twenty-two Driver/Attendants are supplemented by St. John Brigade and Hospital Car Driver volunteers, whose devotion to duty merits appreciation.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics

All maternity and Child Welfare, School and Dental Clinics are administered by the County Council.

The following Clinics are held in Ashford:-

(i) Station Road

This is the central and chief clinic and is contained in an 'ad hoc' building. The outlying clinics are complementary. Sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 2.00 p.m.

(ii) Women's Institute Hall, Church Road, North Willesborough

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(iii) Women's Institute Hall, Faversham Road, Kennington

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

(iv) Brookfield Hall, South Ashford

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month.

School Medical Service Clinics

The following clinics of the School Medical Service are held at the main Station Road Clinic.

- (a) School Clinic
- (b) Dental Clinic
- (c) Ophthalmic Clinic
- (d) Speech Therapy Clinic

- (e) Orthopaedic Clinic - this clinic is held at Ashford Hospital,

is administered by the Regional Hospitals Board and is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. (females) 11-12 noon (males) and Fridays 2-3 p.m. (females) 3-4 p.m. (males)

Tuberculosis Clinic

This Clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m.

Chiropody Service, Chiropody Clinic, Station Road, Ashford.

This service is provided for men over 65 years and women over 60 years, for physically handicapped persons and for expectant mothers. Appointments are made through the Principal Welfare Officer, K.C.C. Health Department, 27, High Street, Ashford.

Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General - accommodation 115 beds
- (b) Willlesborough General - accommodation 133 beds
- (c) The Warren Hospital - accommodation 16 cubicle beds (including cots)  
(Infectious Diseases)

4. Private Nursing Homes

There are two registered private Nursing Homes which accommodate nineteen patients.

5. Home Nursing and Midwifery Services

The County Council administers these services. The standard of service given by the Nurses is excellent and there is complete co-operation between them and the Practitioners. The majority of patients nursed in their homes are elderly and chronic sick, many of whom are awaiting beds in Chronic Sick Hospitals which are still inadequate to cope with the waiting list.

6. The Maternity and Child Welfare Service

This service is also administered by the County Council. There are four Child Welfare Centres within the District, which are conveniently situated for mothers, and the attendances are well maintained.

7. The Domestic Help Service, the Family Care Service, Evening and Night Attendant Service and the Family Welfare Service.

These services are administered by the County Council and have become a very important health service in the home. Applications for assistance should be made to the local Domestic Help Organiser at 14, Church Road, Ashford. (Tel: No: 24411).

Home Helps are paid at the rate of 4/1½d. per <sup>hour</sup> and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicants, the maximum charges being 6/2d. per hour.

SECTION C.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The water supply for the whole of the Urban District is provided by the Mid-Kent Water Company.

Regular Supplies

Godmersham

The water source is from two 24" borings into the chalk (each 200 feet deep) with an authorised extraction of up to 3 million gallons per day. The water is pumped to Kennington supply network and the trunk main connected to the Ashford supply. It also serves Batchelor's Foods Factory water tower (100,000 gallons capacity) and some water can be boosted to the Hastingleigh reservoir. A one million gallon covered service reservoir on the downs near Godmersham is a balance reservoir and supplies by gravity when the Godmersham Station is shut down.

Charing

This water is obtained from the greensand and the borings are approximately 160 feet deep. Treatment includes aeration for pH elevation and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. It is pumped to Fairbourne and Charing Hill Reservoirs (capacity 1,000,000 and 283,500 gallons respectively). These reservoirs afford a subsidiary or auxiliary supply to Kennington.

Standby Supply Sources

Westwell

There remain two gravel-screen bore holes in serviceable condition each with pumping plant installed capable of extracting 10,000 gallons per hour from each bore-hole. The treatment plant removes iron manganese and carbon dioxide by the addition of lime, sedimentation and filtration. The water is capable of being pumped by an electrically-driven pump to a covered reservoir (capacity 1,000,000 gallons) at Potter's Corner, from where it enters the supply network. The source is maintained for emergency use only.

Henwood

This supply comes from four wells with interconnecting adits, approximately 40 feet deep. From the electrically driven pumps the water is pumped into the supply network and a surplus would be diverted into the reservoir at Potter's Corner. Extraction from this source has ceased but it is maintained in serviceable condition as an emergency supply. It is equipped with automatic super and dechlorination plant with automatic residual recording.

Samples

By arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory Service samples for bacteriological examination have been taken from points on the distribution network at the rate of normally four each month.

Houses connected to public mains

11,290 houses are connected to the public mains, leaving only one house (in Blackwall Road) known not to be connected.

Plumbo Solvency

All sources of water supply to the area were tested and proven to be non plumbo-solvent.

Water Supply (Continued)

Fluoridation

Fluoride content of water supplies are low - less than 0.1 ppm and no artificial fluoridation is practised.

Examination of Samples taken during the Year 1967

	<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>			<u>Chemical Examination</u>		
	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory</u>
<u>Statutory Undertakers Supply (Mid-Kent Water Co.)</u>						
(a) Ashford U.D.C.	46	45	-	-	-	-
(b) Mid-Kent W/S	41 (13x)	41	-	15 (13x)	15	-
Private Sources piped to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private Sources	-	-	-	-	-	-

x Indicates raw water.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

Much procrastination in starting was followed by an almost incredible number of delays during the progress of the work before a portion of the Newtown Estate drainage (for 30 houses) was effectively connected to the town's main drainage system and a noisome series of cesspools eliminated. It would be of considerable public health benefit if the rest of the areas with cesspool and septic tank drainage could be programmed to be similarly connected up to main drainage.

Total number of inhabited houses including flats - 11,291

Total number of houses connected to the sewers - 11,046

No. of houses not connected to the sewers (estimated) - 245

3. Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath water is break-point chlorinated and free chlorine is maintained up to between 1 and 2 p.p.m. Additions of soda ash made to reduce acidity in the water so as to avoid eye defects etc. This is necessary as chlorine gas is used for water sterilization.

The water is purified by means of a rapid sand filtration plant with a twelve-hour turn-over period. The bath (100 x 25 yds.) has a capacity of 600,000 gallons.

The number of swimmers was 47,000 (52,051 last year) plus members on 'Club Nights'.

Samples of the water sent for bacteriological examination were satisfactory in each case. These samples were aimed to be taken at time of maximum use. Check tests on chlorine and ph were all satisfactory.

Swimming Bath (Contd.)

Regular visits were made to the two State and one private school swimming baths in the area. Chlorine (and where appropriate ph) testing was carried out and samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Satisfactory control and results were maintained.

4. Eradication of Vermin

found  
The number of houses/to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

	<u>Bugs</u>	<u>Fleas</u>	<u>Cockroaches</u>
Council Houses	-	6	4
Other Houses	4	3	-
Other Premises	-	-	-

The warm summer encouraged wasp activities and some sixty-five wasp nests were destroyed.

The practice was continued of spraying each week the refuse collection vehicles with a persistent insecticide to help control the fly population.

A disinestation service was maintained for the two local General Hospitals and the Warren Hospital. A long-term endeavour was started to eliminate the residual infestation of a local Hospital with Pharaohs Ants (Monomorium Pharaonis) by the use of lacquer and spray followed by baiting. The scheme had to be postponed as trials showed that vapour from the lacquer solvent used induced coughing; so that an alternative material is being sought.

The dustbin hire scheme continues to be operated, the number of bins on hire was 483 by the end of the year.

5. Rats and Mice Destruction

Instances where rodent control work was carried out are detailed below. Domestic premises receive a free service.

(A)	<u>Total Premises Inspected as Result</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwellings (incl. Council)</u>	<u>All Other</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(1)	<u>NOTIFICATION</u>	- (1)	168 (167)	25 (42)	- (3)
	No. found infested	Rats - (1)	111 (97)	10 (22)	- (3)
		Mice - (-)	57 (49)	15 (20)	- (-)
(2)	<u>SURVEY</u>	17 (17)	115 (124)	8 (21)	3 (4)
		Rats 17 (14)	99 (90)	7 (2)	3 (3)
		Mice - (-)	16 (25)	1 (1)	- (3)

(For comparative purposes last years figures are given in brackets)

During the summer a general increase of rat infestation seemed to occur at a time when many other local authorities in the country were reported to have most serious problems of infestation to cope with. The figures for the number of infestations, however, do not show more than a marginal increase, indicating that effective control was constantly maintained. As usual the majority of infestations occur on the rural fringe of the town and it is hoped that more energetic clearance of rats will be pursued

in future by our farming neighbours especially having in mind the possible incrimination of rats in the spreading of Foot and Mouth disease following the really dreadful recent epizootic.

Rodent control in the town sewerage system was effected in Spring and Autumn on the lines of the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Only a light infestation was disclosed. Once again there were indications of the re-infestation of part of the system by way of storm water overflows to watercourses.

6. Clean Air Act

Twenty-three formal notifications were received of proposals to instal furnaces and eighteen plans submitted showing new chimneys to be constructed. After consideration of detail of the plant proposed to be installed, in accordance with the most helpful guidance afforded by the Minister of Housing (a revised form of which was issued in the course of the year). Approval was given in seventeen cases to the chimneys proposed (seven being altered by agreement). Despite rejection of the plans in one instance it has unfortunately not proved possible to require a chimney of proper height to be erected in the absence of co-operation from the person concerned. It is to be hoped that the amending legislation will effectively deal with the unsatisfactory position.

No smoke nuisances from industrial premises occurred. Complaint is received from time to time of smoke from the local iron foundry which is situate up-wind from the backs of domestic premises. Generally speaking, the smoke level is reasonably controlled though any smoke and fume emission is undesirable. There is some experimental work using oil-fired after-burners and it is hoped that this will prove satisfactory and be introduced at the foundry.

Atmospheric Pollution

The daily monitoring of smoke and sulphur dioxide gas takes place in the centre of Ashford at Regents Place and results obtained during the five and a half years of its operation suggest a small reduction in Atmospheric pollution in that part of Ashford, where pollutants are at a low level and compare favourably with similar data from Aylesbury, Crayford and Friern Barnet. The results are typical of domestic smoke as opposed to pollution from industrial sources. The decrease may be climatic but equally well may be due to the increased popularity of smokeless fuels as 'clean' fuels and the use of more efficient appliances for burning it in the home.

In January a semi-automatic recording station was put into operation at the Brookfield South Community Centre and the results obtained so far indicate a desirably low level of the atmospheric pollutants recorded.

7. Noise

Despite the warm summer and the activities of itinerant ice cream vendors, no complaints of noise from their chimes were received, though with frequent changes in the driver/salesmen a number of warnings were given. The warmer nights, necessitating wide open windows, did produce some complaints of noise from a local factory working night shift. Good co-operation was forthcoming, machinery was moved, doors kept shut and so on and after experimentation further works will be carried out in the early Spring of 1968 which should reduce this noise output to the minimum practicable. A 'do-it-yourself' exponent caused troubles with his neighbours by his night time activities in the house and other troubles in the domestic sphere arose from dogs and from domestic quarrels. Two local dance halls gave rise to complaint and also a scrap-iron yard

8. Analysis of Public Health Inspectors Visits  
 (but excluding work carried out under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act).

Inspections

Housing

Dwellings re repairs	...	...	...	501
Number of dwellings made fit	...	...	...	64
Dwellings re Demolition & Closing Orders	...	...	...	114
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	68
General Survey and assessment	...	...	...	55
Improvement of houses outside Improvement Areas initiated by tenants)	...	...	...	23
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	207
Improvement areas	...	...	...	376
Multilets	...	...	...	83
Multilet Survey	...	...	...	-
Overcrowding Survey	...	...	...	6
Housing, adequacy of	...	...	...	194
Drainage	...	...	...	317
Water supply	...	...	...	88
Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	-
Certificate as to Remedyng of Defects	...	...	...	-
Miscellaneous Rent Act	...	...	...	2

Food

Abattoir	...	...	...	423
Bakehouses	...	...	...	14
Butchers	...	...	...	55
Catering establishment and clubs	...	...	...	67
Dairies	...	...	...	18
Fish (incl. fried)	...	...	...	15
Licensed premises	...	...	...	22
Market Food Stalls	...	...	...	87
Mobile Stalls and Delivery Vans	...	...	...	127
Vending Machines	...	...	...	1
Registered premises under Sec. 16 included in above	...	...	...	55
Food Inspection and Sampling	...	...	...	250
Other Food Trades	...	...	...	184

Factories and Shops

Factories with power	...	...	...	66
Factories non-power	...	...	...	4
Workplaces	...	...	...	1
Outworkers	...	...	...	4
Shops Act (hours)	...	...	...	4
Offices and Shops	...	...	...	236

General

Rats and Mice destruction	...	...	...	69
Other vermin	...	...	..	26
Dirty houses	...	...	...	16
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	31
Offensive odours	...	...	...	21
Nuisances from keeping animals	...	...	...	16
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	7
Caravans	...	...	...	22
Aged and infirm persons	...	...	...	7
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	23
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	5
Noise - Sources complaint of	...	...	...	13
Number of Visits	...	...	...	55
Agriculture safety and welfare	...	...	...	-

Analysis of Public Health Inspectors Visits (Contd.)

General (Contd.)

Clean Air - observations	...	...	...	38
- visits	...	...	...	71
- Atmospheric Pollution Station	...	...	...	358
Fireguards (Heating Appliances)	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	417

Improvements and Repairs effected

House Repairs

(a) External

Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	34
Roofs	...	...	...	45
Gutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	73
Brickwork, pointing and rendering	...	...	...	54
Windows (incl. cords)	...	...	...	49
Doors	...	...	...	8
Decorations	...	...	...	11
Outbuildings	...	...	...	2
Yard surfacing	...	...	...	21

(b) Internal

Plasterwork (walls and ceilings)	...	...	...	66
Doors and cupboards	...	...	...	10
Fireplaces and stoves	...	...	...	14
Staircases	...	...	...	4
Floors (incl. u.f.v.)	...	...	...	34
... Miscellaneous	...	...	...	16

Dampness Remedied

Walls	...	...	...	135
Floors	...	...	...	6

Foodstore

Made satisfactory	...	...	...	14
Provided	...	...	...	5

Water Supply

Leaks repaired	...	...	...	5
Piping renewed	...	...	...	8
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	7
Drainers renewed or provided	...	...	...	2

Water Closets

Repaired	...	...	...	23
New provided	...	...	...	3

Ventilation

Improved	...	...	...	18
----------	-----	-----	-----	----

Natural Lighting

Improved	...	...	...	3
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Drainage

Drains renewed or repaired	...	...	...	22
Drains cleared	...	...	...	12

Stability Remedied

...	...	...	...	1
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ANNUAL REPORT 1967

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED  
31st DECEMBER, 1967

1. Record of Inspections

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of 'General' Inspections</u>	<u>No. of Re-inspections</u>
Offices	126 (121)	26 (8)	) 141
Shops	259 (255)	56 (13)	) (316)
Wholesalers	23 (22)	7 (3)	)
Catering	26 (24)	6 (2)	)

(1966 figures are given in brackets)

Total visits - 236 (342)

2. Total Persons Employed in Classes of Work in Various Categories of Premises

	Office Work	Shop Work	Whole-sale Work	Cater-ing Work	Canteen Work	Total all Staff	Total Female Staff
Offices	1107 (968)	40 (48)	57 (55)	(-)	2 (1)	1206 (1152)	592 (511)
Shops	161 (155)	1307 (1559)	8 (8)	(-)	9 (7)	1485 (1763)	1028 (1115)
Wholesalers	48 (47)	4 (4)	185 (171)	(-)	- (-)	237 (223)	49 (52)
Catering	4 (4)	13 (13)	1 (1)	154 (144)	10 (7)	182 (204)	156 (168)
	1320 (1174)	1364 (1624)	251 (235)	154 (144)	21 (15)	3110 (3192)	1735 (1847)

(1966 figures are given in brackets)

3. Number of Exemption Certificates in force during year

Exemptions from compliance fully with provisions of the Act as to toilet accommodation were granted for temporary periods in respect of one shop, one catering establishment and one warehouse. The latter was also exempted from the provision of washing facilities. In all instances the exemptions expired during the year with the making of new and satisfactory arrangements to comply fully with the legal standards

4. Extent of Compliance with Various Sections of the Act

(a) <u>Offices</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Notices Complied with</u>
	(Found on General inspec-tions)		(Re-inspec-tions)
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	25	1	1
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	23	3	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	19	6	2
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	24	2	3
Lighting (Sec. 8)	23	3	1
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 9)	22	4	1

Offices (Continued)

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Notices</u>
	(Found on General Inspections)	Notices Served	Complied with (Re-inspections)
Washing fac. (Sec. 10)	20	6	1
Drinking & Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	23	3	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	21	5	2
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	25	1	-
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	23	3	-
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	1	1	-
Risk of bodily injury or health etc (Sec. 22)	26	-	1
First Aid (Sec. 24)	20	6	2
Abstracts	17	9	2

(b) Shops

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	55	1	3
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	56	-	1
Temperature (Sec. 6)	43	13	9
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	52	4	7
Lighting (Sec. 8)	53	3	2
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	53	3	9
Washing Facilities (Sec. 10)	51	5	9
Drinking and Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	48	8	4
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	53	3	5
Sitting Facilities (Sec. 13)	51	5	5
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	26	-	1
Meal Facilities (Sec. 15)	22	1	3
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	52	4	10
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	18	8	4
Risk bodily injury or health etc (Sec. 22)	52	4	2
First Aid (Sec. 24)	44	12	10
Abstracts	36	20	12

(c) Wholesale Dept. or Warehouse

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	7	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	6	1	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	5	2	1
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	7	-	-
Lighting (Sec. 8)	6	1	-
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	6	1	3
Washing facs. (Sec. 10)	5	2	2
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	4	3	2
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	6	1	2
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	7	-	-
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	7	-	2
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	-	-	-
Risk bodily injury or health etc (Sec. 22)	7	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	7	-	2
Abstracts	5	2	1

(d) Catering Establishments (Public)

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	5	1	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	6	-	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	6	-	-
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	6	-	-
Lighting (Sec. 8)	6	-	-
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	6	-	-

Catering Estabs (Public) (Continued)	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notices Complied with (Re-inspec- tions)
	(Found on General Inspec- tions)		
Washing facs. (Sec. 10)	6	-	-
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	6	-	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	6	-	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	-	-	-
Safety floors, steps & Stair- cases (Sec. 16)	3	3	-
Safety pf Machines (Sec. 17)	-	1	-
Risk bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	6	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	6	-	-
Abstracts	2	4	-

There was generally good co-operation with employers in the implementation of the Act, and agreement over the standards acceptable under its provisions. An attempt was made to increase again the number of 'general' (i.e. complete) inspections to about a quarter of the total number of registered premises in order to achieve a target of a 'General' inspection every four years. New registrations during the year (thirty six premises) received a general inspection within a few days of registration. It is found, however, that the majority of firms have to be prompted to register and this is expected to necessitate a periodic survey of the district for 'missed registrations'.

5. Accidents Reported during the Year

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investi- gated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	-	2(2)	1	-	-	-	2
Retail Shops	-	11(7)	1(3)	-	-	1(1)	10(2)
Wholesale shops Warehouses	-	4(4)	1	-	-	-	4
Catering estab- lishments open to public, canteens	-	-(2)	-	-	-	-	-
Fuel storage depot	-	-(-)	-	-	-	-	-
Total		17(15)	3(3)	-	-	1(1)	16(2)

(Figures in brackets are those for 1966)

Attention was drawn in last year's Report to the vulnerability of youngers of both sexes employed in shops and warehouses causing themselves injuries to the back especially in the absence of proper instruction in the correct methods of lifting & carrying 'heavy' objects. It remains my opinion that injuries sustained may have long term significance and that nationally something should be done about it. A reproduction of correct lifting and carrying methods was made and has been well received by traders for exhibiting on staff notice boards and also a number of copies were supplied to Secondary Schools in collaboration with Head Teachers in each case.

Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Office	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering Estabs. open to public, canteens
Machinery	-	-	1(-)	-
Transport	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	1(1)	3(5)	-(1)	-(2)
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	2(1)	-	-
Handling goods	-	4(1)	4(2)	-
Struck by falling object	-	-	-(1)	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	1(-)	1(-)	-	-

(Figures in brackets are those for 1966)

6. The Working of the Act

The continued absence of specific guidance as to standards of lighting is having the effect of delaying even normal improvements to lighting, as, with the knowledge that a Code of Practice is to be published on the subject, occupiers quite understandably would prefer to wait until the code standard becomes available rather than have to risk a double expense over their lighting arrangements.

One useful effect of the Act has been to jolt at least some people into becoming more safety conscious and in this connection one could not fail but to be most impressed by the guards and interlock devices now being incorporated in new food cutting and slicing machines, and safeguards built into equipment such as power elevators. A platform lift seen recently could be stopped even by the pressure exerted by a piece of carboard when it was placed in a 'toe trap'. These are excellant developments for quite clearly there are too many persons about who are accident-prone.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health

	<u>Number on Reg- ister</u>	<u>Inspect- ions</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	125	57	3	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	4	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	10	9	-	-
Total	147	70	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted</u>
			<u>To H.M. Inspec- tor</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspec- tor</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	2	-	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	-	-	1	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) Insufficient	1	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	7	3	-	-	-
Total	16	10	1	1	-

OUTWORKERS - There are eight Outworkers in the district.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The number of dwellings completed during the year 1967/8 was as follows:-

	<u>Completed</u> <u>1967/8</u>	<u>1946 - 1967</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
(i) Prefabricated temporary bungalows	-	73
(ii) New Permanent Houses:-		
<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	9
(b) 3 " "	7	385
(c) 4 " "	-	23
(d) 2 " maisonettes (Court Wurtin)	-	8
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	40
(b) 3	-	73
(c) 4	-	3
<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	28
(b) 3 " "	-	175
(c) 4 " "	-	4
<u>Aylesford Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	6
(b) 3 " "	-	10
<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	70
(b) 3 " "	-	431
(c) 4 " "	-	10
<u>Burton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	58
(b) 3 " "	-	98
<u>Repton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	30
(b) 3 " "	-	4
<u>Brookfield South Estate</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	-	205
(b) 3 " 3 storey with garage	-	105
(c) 4 " type	-	11
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	-	158
(b) 4 " "	-	34
<u>Stanhope</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	128	128
(b) 4 " "	41	41

(iii) <u>Flats</u>		<u>1967/8</u>	<u>1946 - 67</u>	<u>(inclusive)</u>
<u>Croft Road</u>				
(a) Bed-sitting room type		-	2	
(b) 2 bedroom type		-	1	
(c) 1 " "		-	3	
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>				
(a) Gregory Flats		-	28	
(b) Bed-sitting room type		-	16	
(c) 2 bedroom Easiform type		-	16	
<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>				
(a) Bed-sitting room type		-	6	
(b) 2 bedroom type		-	14	
(c) 1 " " (Court Wurtin)		-	6	
(d) 2 " " "		-	2	
(e) Bed-sitting room type (Court Wurtin)		-	24	
<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>				
(a) 3 bedroom type		-	1	
<u>Godfrey Walk</u>				
(a) Bed-sitting room type		-	13	
(b) 1 bedroom type		-	27	
(c) 2 " "		-	28	
<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>				
(a) Gregory Flats		-	28	
(b) 1 bedroom type		-	18	
(c) 2 " "		-	53	
(d) Bed-sitting room type		-	4	
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>				
(a) 1 bedroom type - flats		-	34	
(b) 2 " Maisonettes		-	70	
(c) 3 " "		-	66	
<u>Brookfield South</u>				
2 bedroom type		9	71	
<u>Aylesford Green Estate</u>				
(a) 2 bedroom type		-	20	
(b) 1 " "		-	12	
<u>East Stour Farm</u>				
<u>Repton Estate</u>				
Kennington - 2 bedroom type		-	8	
<u>Stanhope</u>				
(a) 1 bedroom flats		24	24	
(b) 2 " maisonettes		48	48	

		<u>1967/8</u>	<u>1946 - 67</u>
		<u>(inclusive)</u>	
(iv)	<u>Old People's Bungalows</u>		
(a)	<u>Burton Estate</u>	-	12
(b)	<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>	-	16
(c)	<u>Woolreeds Estate</u> (Court Wurtin)		
	2 bedroom type	-	5
	1 " "	-	12
(d)	<u>Waterside</u>		
	1 bedroom type	-	6
(e)	<u>Gladstone and Mead Roads</u>		
	1 bedroom type	-	2
	Total number of units provided by the Council	257	3,035
	Number provided by private enterprise	214	1,993

Analysis of Applications for Council Houses

Living in Ashford - Inadequately housed

Childless couples	44
One child families	61
Two/Three child families	59
Four or more child families	8
	172

Living in Ashford - Adequately Housed

Childless couples	83
One child couples	79
Two/Three child families	92
Four or more child families	4
	258

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - inadequately housed

Childless couples	7
One child families	22
Two/Three child families	21
Four or more child families	8
	58

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - adequately housed

Childless couples	15
One child families	48
Two/Three child families	53
Four or more child families	10
	126

Applicants for bed-sitting room flats of whom 21 are  
householders

...

47

Applicants for old peoples dwellings of whom 118 are  
householders

...

165

Total applicants

...

826

A. <u>Houses demolished</u>	<u>In Clearance Areas</u> (Housing Act, 1957)	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during Year</u>	
			<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation		-	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement		-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sect. 43 43(2) Housing Act, 1957)		-	-	-
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>				
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957		11	4	2
B. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>	<u>Number</u>			
(5) Under Sec. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	10		6	4
(6) Under Sec. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	-		-	-
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18. Housing Act, 1957	2		2	1
C. <u>Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied</u>		<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>	
(8) After informal action by local authority		134		-
(9) After formal notice under - (a) Public Health Act		-		-
(b) Secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	15		1	
(10) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	-		-	
(11) Closing Orders determined				(3)

'Slum' Clearance and repair of houses

Progress continued in accordance with the slum clearance programme and in addition a number of Dutch Gabled houses facing the green of the British Railways Newtown Estate were not re-let when the tenants moved out (usually as a result of inherent defects). The Council have negotiated to purchase the Estate and in the interests of the persons living there the future ownership of it (and policy) needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

It is fair to say that some owners of low-rented tenanted property find it increasingly hard to maintain their houses in the face of building costs rising and are further discouraged by the increased rents of houses other than 'controlled'. It too is clearly illogical that the repairs element in a controlled rent is effectively so much less <sup>for a poor</sup> than ~~than~~ for a better (but not necessarily larger) property. It costs just as much to refix a tile on a cottage roof as on a modern bungalow. Thus the poorest property tends to become worse still through minimal maintenance.

Improvement of Houses

The number of houses improved with the aid of Standard Grants increased in spite of a reduced number of owner-occupiers taking advantage of the grant and a similar pattern was shown in the recipients of discretionary grants. Average cost of works is continuing to rise, so that a review of the Standard Grant allowances (fixed in 1959) is now overdue.

The increased number of tenanted houses improved, and the slight increase in the overall number of improved houses (against the general pattern reported elsewhere) was due to the progress made with the Improvement Areas. The first area selected was Christchurch Road, Stage 1 of which was declared in March 1966 and by the end of 1967 of the seventeen tenanted houses, nine had been improved (or in process thereof) seven were the subject of 'suspended' improvement (usually elderly tenants objecting to the improvements). Stage 11 of the Christchurch Road Improvement Area, declared in October 1966, contained twenty (unimproved) tenanted houses and the negotiations on these are still incomplete. The Linden Road Environs Improvement Area included thirty-five tenanted houses needing improvement and this was divided into two stages declared in March and December, 1967. Negotiations over these are still in progress. Every encouragement is simultaneously given to the owner/occupiers of unimproved houses in the areas to have their houses improved under the Grant arrangements.

In order to achieve even a modicum of progress with improvements a great deal of preparatory work on survey and production of repair and improvement schedules, patient explanation of principles and alternatives is involved and a time consuming complicated procedure has to be followed. On balance, it is felt that the positive improvement and repair of the houses concerned justifies the effort employed, if only because some positive progress results which may 'snowball' elsewhere in the district by the positive improvement achieved.

During the year only two requests were received from tenants (outside Improvement Areas) for their houses to be improved by the Council making the approach to the owner. This gives some guide as to the attitude of many of the public who do not want 'the mess' involved, prefer a rental on the television than to pay increased rent for improvements, or whose outgoings are geared to a low rental. In the three years since the Act became operative eight houses outside Improvement Areas have been improved at the tenant's request to the local authority to use its compulsory powers, but the Council has not had to use these powers in default in any instance.

Concomitant with fitting baths etc. in houses has been the need to renew corroded shared water service pipes and the Council's contribution (normally one-third) towards the cost of this work has been very valuable indeed to house-owners of the type of property concerned, usually terrace houses 60 - 80 years old where one pipe supplied water for anything up to six houses. Eleven grants were made during the course of the year.

#### 'Multilet' Dwellings

There is a much greater change rate in the occupants of 'multi-let' accommodation than any other. This poses serious financial and other problems for landlords, and becomes something of a vicious circle, for the expense and losses suffered are reflected in a tendency to increase the rent and this in turn drives tenants to seek an alternative dwelling. The control of 'multilets' (apart from the use of Planning powers which have definite limitations) starts once a building is shared, when it is often difficult to apply the law without, in the short term, harming the interests of the persons it is intended to benefit or protect. All existing multilet houses should be registered and additional multilet accommodation should be up to prescribed standard of amenity before registration and use.

#### SECTION E.

##### 1. Milk Supplies

There are forty-seven registered distributors of milk in the district and four registered dairies.

Samples of milk taken in course of delivery following results:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Untreated	15	1
Treated	32	1
Sterilized	-	-
U.H.T.	1	-

All sixteen samples of raw milk were free from Brucella infection.

## 2. Fresh Cream

Of seven samples of cream taken in the course of the year, two were unsatisfactory - all untreated samples direct from farms. These were reported to the appropriate Ministry. The fact that the provisional test is failed is not itself a health hazard, but in view of the potential concentration of organisms such as brucella in the cream, more research work and a statutory standard test is needed.

## 3. Ice Cream

Sampling was again mainly concentrated on sales of loose and soft ice cream from catering establishments and samples from itinerant vendors in the evenings were obtained. The improvement in results was maintained as the following table shows. Particular vigilance is called for with regard to soft ice cream production where the latest type of plant maintained strictly in accordance with the manufacturers instructions gives very satisfactory results, but any relaxation of care or ignorance of techniques at the time of staff changes is immediately reflected in an unsatisfactory product.

	<u>Vans and Stalls</u>				<u>Premises</u>			
	<u>Grades</u>				<u>Grades</u>			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other loose	8	-	2	-	26	4	1	-
Wrapped	3	-	-	-	5	-	-	-

Some 106 premises, mostly general shops are registered for the sale of ice cream. In addition, ice cream is retailed by catering establishments of all sorts, from theatres, clubs, schools and from the vehicles of itinerant vendors without the need to register.

## 3. Meat and Foods

There are 42 premises in the district registered for the manufacture of foods which do not include any catering establishments but range through food factories, fried fish shops, butchers (sausage manufacture), pie manufacture, provisioners (ham cooking etc.) and shops with spit roasters or deep freeze pie cooking arrangements. Altogether there are 329 food premises in the area.

During the year some thirty-three complaints relating to food were received and investigated. The very warm conditions in the summer months helped to contribute to the mould problems which high lighted any shortcomings in the methods of distribution or storage. Ten complaints of mouldy food were received and twelve of 'extraneous'

matters in a variety of foodstuffs. Two of these latter complaints referred to round worm in cod fillet. A complaint of a needle in a packet of 'crunch bar' was proven beyond doubt to have been introduced in the purchaser's own household. Food complaints were all investigated and closely followed back to the cause. Good co-operation from traders and manufacturers concerned was forthcoming in tracing and remedying faults where found and introducing or revising systems of coding where appropriate, by which means the interests of the general public were better served than in simply taking prosecutions.

Unsound Food Surrendered

		<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at slaughterhouse (Not incl. offal)	... ...	4,649
Offals	... ...	3,706
Meat offals at wholesale premises	... ...	48
Meat and offals at retail shops	... ...	98
Cooked meat and meat products	... ...	92
Canned Meats	... ...	945
Other Canned Food	... ...	1,666
Fish	... ...	-
Fruit and vegetables	... ...	56
Other Foods	... ...	213

In addition to meat and offals rejected at the Council's Abattoir 47 poultry and 8 rabbits were removed as unfit from a total of 4,920 poultry and 1,620 rabbits examined at Ashford Market food auctions. The conditions of the birds has steadily improved over the years, and the proportion of birds and rabbits rejected as unfit is significantly lower.

Rejected meat from the slaughterhouse, unfit bacon and butchers meat is slashed and soaked with green aniline dye after which it is removed for the manufacture of by-products in another part of the county. Other foodstuffs, comprising mainly unsound tinned foods are disposed of by dumping under refuse at the Council's refuse dump.

Food Hygiene

There has been a marked general improvement over the past ten to fifteen years in the standard of equipment and finish to food premises generally, but progress tends to be stultified by a failure to care on the part of a proportion of food handlers and management. There is a tendency to superficially cleanse and avoid the trouble involved in taking that extra trouble that really matters. One wonders whether there is uniformly an adequate emphasis placed on food hygiene in schools - taking a single basic aspect, are children taught to wash their hands before taking their dinner - or is this lost sight of, even discouraged in the rush perhaps to accommodate two sittings in a capacity-filled school?

Routine inspection of food premises is increasingly important, and under trading conditions where at any time a trader is liable to dabble with foodstuffs and other items outside his own trade and with which he has neither proper facilities nor experience - using the super-market as his excuse - the need for regular inspection becomes even greater. Informal action only was necessary to secure improvements in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Employers, especially of the larger food processing and retailing concerns, were keen to distribute to their staffs the so-called Ten Point Code (produced by the Central Council for Health Education and provided free to local authorities). Altogether 1,200 copies of the Code was supplied as well as a selection of health propaganda to food firms, and

school and works canteens.

An important piece of Food Hygiene legislation, the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations came into force during the year, but as the application and enforcement will take time no comments will be made until more experience is obtained.

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	552	262	262	1638	4721	-
Number inspected	552	262	262	1638	4721	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	3	-	1	6	12	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	128	90	4	93	591	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	23.55	34.35	1.9	6.04	12.75	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	21	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.47	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The only incident of note was the occurrence of a second case of Eosinophilic Myositis (the first was seen in 1965) found in a young bullock. There was no apparent connection between the two cases. The condition is of unknown origin.

<u>Number of Slaughterhouses in use</u> <u>Slaughterhouses/Abattoirs in operation or leased by Local Authority</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Slaughter-houses</u>		<u>Bacon</u> <u>Factories</u>	<u>Knackers</u> <u>Yards</u>
	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Operating</u>		
One	None	None	None	None

The Abattoir located near the Cattle Market opened on 25th March, 1964, is owned by the Urban Council and operated under an agreement by the Ashford Slaughtering Company Ltd., which was formed for the purpose by a number of local butchers. It meets the needs of local traders and is designed to be capable of serving an expanded Ashford in the future. A requirement of new Regulations governing slaughterhouse

operation included the use of a water spray in place of the traditional wiping cloth, the demise of which is greatly welcomed. A suitable spray gun was fitted at the Abattoir.



